enumerates the pictures of the miraculous woman of the Apocalypse, according to the nomenclature of the catalogues at present existing in Spain, and which he did not purpose to amend; but while he, therefore, calls these productions, in many instances, "Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception," he never transposes them into the "Conception of the Virgin," which forms quite another subject: he speaks of the "Virgin of the Conception" at Grenada; but Mr. Stirling does not enter into iconographical criticism.

The insane worship of the Virgin by the church in Spain, which was carried to a pitch inconceivable to those who breathe in a purer atmosphere of faith and freedom of thought, under our true English branch of the church catholic, demanded and procured a bull from the Pope, about the year 1617,* which, at this late period, yielded the doctrine of the immaculate conception of the Virgin, commanded it to be taught, and forbade a contrary teaching in Spain. The clergy seized upon the portraiture of the assumption, in use from the Byzantine period, and misappropriated it, transferring it to the newly enjoined doctrine of the Lady of the Immaculate Conception. Hence the origin of this error in iconography, and which it is of importance to signalise and correct. This doctrine was, and is now, always an open question in the Roman Church elsewhere. Those who uphold that doctrine in France are known by the name of "Conceptionnaires." Pacheco, who wrote about 1630, and who was of course subject to the influence of the instigators of this misappropriation, gives the old portraiture of the assumption and the mysterious woman of the Apocalypse as the design to be observed in our lady of the most pure Conception,† which forms the second of the series in her history given by him. The positive injunction which has evidently been laid upon him has, however, placed poor Pacheco in a dilemma with regard to the nomenclature of the first of this series, which is still the old subject of the conception of the Virgin. He is forced to degrade it, giving the common-place title of "The Painting of San Joachim and Sta. Anna of the Gilded Gate." Compare his directions with those quoted by me from the Athos Manuscript. Saint Joachim and the glorious Anna, one in the field, the other in her house, receive a revelation from heaven, by means of the Archangel Gabriel, of the most pure conception of our Lady and of the most holy name which they were enjoined to give her. There is here little, if any, variation from the early directions of the Byzantine school: it is in fact the "Conception of the Virgin," and this in the time of Murillo. From the time of Pacheco the error grew apace, and virgins of the conception were multiplied upon the old portraiture for the assumption. Iconology is either useful or of little account: if a mere matter for the indulgence of taste, little will it signify should we follow the nomenclature of indigenous compilers of catalogues in various countries, but if it be a science of the rank which I claim for it, we must not lack the courage nor the effort necessary to expose errors, which, if allowed to flourish, will ultimately leave Christian Art a "rude indigestaque moles,"—"that undigested heap and fry,"—unserviceable or hurtful to all who may encounter it.

RT. HENDRIE.

GLASS SASHES.—Since the recommendation was given in our pages to adopt sashes of glass, we have been informed that a Birmingham firm have a patent for flint-glass sash bars, specimens of which were at the Great Exhibition, class 24.

* "T. E. C." in his error when he supposes the doctrine of the immaculate conception was newly promulgated at this time. It was newly enjoined by the Pope, but the promulgation is ancient, at least, as the tenth century: it is probably of the fifth.—R. H.

† We seem here to have laid our finger upon the nucleus of this difficulty. Pacheco, whether designedly or not, has written, "following of the most pure Conception of Our Lady;"—here lies the mistake. But perhaps Pacheco wrote under the fear of "pressure from without?" there existed another kind of "delight" in the dungeons of the Inquisition, where honest wit armed with knives.—R. H.

REFORM OF EPITAPHS.

As the subject of epitaphs has recently been brought before the public in your columns, I venture to send the following, which I discovered on an old tombstone in Fulham church-yard, bearing date 1686, and erected to the memory of a fond husband and loving wife, if my interpretation of the superscription, which *appears* to be in the Welsh language, be correct:—

"He died in March,
She in November:
All ye that pass by
Pray them remember."

I was recently in Grasmere churchyard, Cumberland, where Wordsworth lies buried: the simple inscription, "William Wordsworth," is recorded upon his tomb. This is a step in the right direction. Let us hope that what St. Pierre terms the "bronze and marble monumentary virtues," are becoming incompatible with the more refined spirit of the age. He must, indeed, judge highly of human nature who takes the generality of tombstones as reference for the character and worth of the departed. Let us trust that something of more unimpeachable veracity may transmit our merits to posterity. W. M. B.

In the churchyard at Prestbury a stone records that

"Here resteth the body of Edward Green, of Adlington, who departed this life 1750, aged 28 years.

"Beneath this stone lyes Edward Green,
Who for cutting stone famous was seen;
But he was sent to apprehend
One Joseph Clarke, of Kerridge End,
For stealing deer of Esquire Downs,
Where he was shot, and dy'd o' th' wounds."

This Clarke was a noted robber and deer-stealer, and a terror to the surrounding country. M.

Having seen some curious epitaphs in your journal, I send you this, which I copied from a tomb-stone in Stockbridge churchyard:—

"In memory of John Beckett, many years landlord of the King's Head Inn, in this borough, who departed this life November 25th, 1842, aged 67 years.

"And is, alas! poor Buckett gone?
Farewell, convivial, honest John.
Oft at the well, by fatal stroke,
Buckets, like pitchers, must be broke.
How various have thy fortunes been!
Now lifted high, now sinking low,—
To-day thy brim would overflow:
Thy bounty then would all supply,
To fill and drink and leave thee dry;
To-morrow must, as in a well,
Content unseen with truth to dwell.
But high or low, or wet or dry,
No rotten stave could malice spy.
Then rise, immortal Buckett! rise!
And claim thy station in the skies:
'Twixt Amphora and Pisces shine,
Still guarding Stockbridge with thy sign."

F. D. W.

OF THOMAS SPRAGG
THE BODY HERE
WAS IN HEALTH
AT NOON. BY NIGHT
DID DYE. A SHIPRIGHT
CAREFVLL HONEST
TRVE AND JVST.
WITH HIS TWOE
BABES WAS LOVERED
IN THE DUST.
MAY 17 ÆTAT 51
1672.

The above was copied from a churchyard in Rochester, last week; and I forward it to you, having read several in your paper. H. M.

The following epitaph is copied from a tombstone, lying in the burial-ground of the parish church, Bolton:—

"John Okey the servant of God was borne in London 1608 Came into this Towne 1629 Maried Mary the daughter of James Crompton of Breightmet 1635 with whom he lived comfortably twenty yeares and begot four sonns and six daughters Since then he lived sole till the day of his death In his time were many Great Changes and terrible alterations 18 yeares civill wars in England besides many dreadfull sea fights The Crown or Command of England changed eight times episcopacy laid aside 14 yeares London burnt by papists and more stately built againe Germany wasted 300 miles 200,000 protestants murdered in Ireland by the papists This towne thrice stormed once taken and plundered He went thorow many troubles and divers conditions Found rest joye and happines only in holines the faith feare & love of God in Jesus Christ He dyed the 29th of Ap & lieth here buried 1684 Come Lord Jesus o come quickly (*Coat of Arms.*)
Holines is mans happines

I send you two epitaphs: the first I copied this morning in the churchyard at Wycombe; the second some time since. If they are of any use to aid your laudable attempt, to prevent in future the abominations which disgrace too often at the present day the memorials of the departed, it will afford me pleasure:—

"Of no distemper,
Of no blast he died,
But fell
Like Autumn's fruit,
That mellows long.
Even wondered at
Because he dropt not sooner.
Providence seemed to wind him up
For fourscore years,
Yet ran he nine winters more;
Till, like a clock,
Worn out with repeating time,
The wheels of weary life
At last stood still.
In memory of John Abdidge, Alderman,
Died 1785."

The following is from the Wesleyan chapel at Wakefield:—

"Her manners mild, her temper such;
Her language good, and not too much."

MINUTES OF INFORMATION ON DRAINAGE.

THE Board of Health, in a volume just now published, with reference to the drainage of dwelling-houses and public buildings (to which we shall return), give the following as their conclusions:—

In addition to the conclusions set forth in the "Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Labouring Population," and confirmed and adopted by the commissioners for inquiring into the means of improving the Health of Towns, namely,—

That no population living amidst aerial impurities, arising from putrid emanations from cesspools, drains, or sewers of deposit, can be healthy, or free from the attacks of devastating epidemics; and

That as a primary condition of salubrity, no ordure and town refuse can be permitted to remain beneath or near habitations; and that by no means can remedial operations be so conveniently, economically, inoffensively, and quickly effected as by the removal of all such refuse dissolved or suspended in water,—may be enumerated the following:—

That it has been subsequently proved by the result of draining houses with tubular drains, in upwards of 19,000 cases, and by the trial of more than 200 miles of pipe-sewers, that the practice of constructing large brick or stone sewers for general town drainage, which detain matters passing into them in suspension in water, which accumulate deposit, and which are made large enough for men to enter them to remove the deposit by hand-labour, without reference to the area to be drained, has been in ignorance, neglect, or perversion of the above-recited principles.

That whilst sewers so constructed are productive of great injury to the public health, by the diffusion into houses and streets of the noxious products of the decomposing matter detained in them, they are wasteful from the increased expense of their construction and repair, and from the cost of ineffectual efforts to keep them free from deposit.

That the house-drains, made as they have heretofore been of absorbent brick or stone, besides detaining substances in suspension, accumulating foul deposit, and being so permeable as to permit the escape of liquid and gaseous matters, are also false in principle, and wasteful in the expense of construction, cleansing, and repair.

That it results from the experience of works constructed upon the principles developed in these inquiries, that improved tubular house-drains and sewers of the proper sizes, inclina-

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